

Date: June 3, 2013
TO: Michigan Legislators
SUBJECT: Support for Grant's Bill, SB 354

I have served in the capacity of a Director for an animal control department, and a President and CEO for animal sanctuaries and humane societies for over 23 years. I am currently the director of the Ingham County Animal Control and Shelter in Ingham County since 2004. I am a current board member on the National Animal Control Association's Board of Directors and a past board member of the Michigan Association of Animal Control Officers.

Over the course of my career I have had to make the heart-wrenching yet necessary decision that ultimately ended the lives of over 22,000 animals in my 23 year career. That's a staggering number—that's a number that even I find hard to fathom—yet despite those staggering numbers and the thousands of lives they represent, I know that they were euthanized humanely and safely and that everything was done to ensure their last moments were not filled with terror, pain nor suffering.

I could not make this statement if they had been killed by the use of a gas chamber.

Imagine 22,000 animals—and I am only one director out of hundreds across this state who are making those same decisions every single day, as I am forced to. This year my shelter sadly will euthanize an estimated 1500 injured, ill, feral or dangerous dogs and cats in just Ingham County. My peace of mind and how I sleep at night? I know their death was conducted in the most humane manner possible: By EBI, or euthanasia by injection.

Our shelter receives a large volume of extremely dangerous animals. We house and care for all dangerous dog cases, bite cases and a high volume of dog fighting cases in addition to over 500 feral cats annually. We are underfunded, under staffed and have very limited resources—sadly we euthanize more animals then many shelters in Michigan. We have one person assigned on duty who conducts euthanasia when necessary in addition to all their regular duties. We do pre-sedate animals prior to EBI. Time, money, training and safety for both the animals and the staff...these are not valid reasons for allowing gas chambers to exist. Instead, they are excellent reasons for its removal. I am here to attest to that fact.

There are NO MORE arguments left to allow gas chamber euthanasia of Michigan's companion animals in the great State of Michigan—the time is now to be rid of this archaic practice of gassing Michigan cats and dogs in animal shelters. I know what gas chamber death is like, and by know I'm sure you've all been enlightened—our pets deserve so much better. The public places their trust in our Michigan animal shelters to protect animals and provide a safe place for them until a home can be found for them, or an owner is located, or if not possible to rehome, then a humane death when necessary.

I implore you to make the pragmatic, humane and ethical choice in regards to how our companion animals are euthanized in our Michigan animal shelters.

Please put an end to the use of gas chambers today. Thank you.

Jamie McAloon
Director
Ingham County Animal Control and Shelter
Mason, Michigan